



December 23, 2014

Hello!

My name is Lars Hasselblad Torres. I am an artist, educator and entrepreneur with a deep interest in the intersection of technology and community development. I'm also Executive Director of Vermont's newest maker space, Generator ([generatorvt.com](http://generatorvt.com)).

Generator's objective is to foster a fertile environment for creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship - while experiencing a lot of fun and learning. Makers of all kinds - jewelers, coders, designers, engineers, weekend tinkerers and students too - are welcome at Generator!

In keeping with our mission to advance the maker culture in Vermont, I am pleased and excited to announce that Generator is working with the incomparable Woody Keppel ([woodykeppel.com](http://woodykeppel.com)) to host the **first ever statewide Rube Goldberg Machine Contest on Saturday, March 21, 2015!**

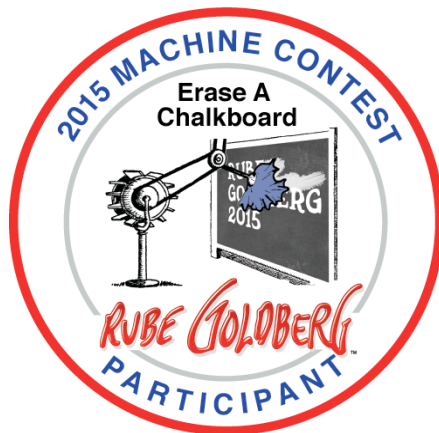
The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest (RGMC) is an annual international competition that challenges teams of students from middle school to college age to compete in building the most elaborate and hilarious Rube Goldberg Machine. A Rube Goldberg Machine is an overly complex contraption, designed with humor and a narrative, to accomplish an otherwise simple task. The contest will bring together these machines from around the state in an incredible display of ingenuity.

For this to work, we need you (and your fellow students and teachers!) to be the creative power behind the contest. You can do this by coming up with crazy machine ideas to build, machines that accomplish a singular, seemingly simple task. As you begin to explore the possibilities, I think you'll agree: RGMC is a great way to engage students in hands-on, project-oriented STEAM learning!

I've attached some more information about this contest; I hope you will consider participating in this inaugural celebration of whimsy, ingenuity and accomplishment! If you have any questions about the contest, don't hesitate to reach out - I can be reached by phone on (802) 595-0605 and by email at [director@generatorvt.com](mailto:director@generatorvt.com).

All for now - see you March 21 for the Big Chalkboard Erase of 2015!

Lars Hasselblad Torres, Director  
Burlington Generator



## The 2015 "Erase a Chalkboard" Task!

The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest (RGMC) is an annual international competition that challenges teams of students from middle school to college age to compete in building the most elaborate and hilarious Rube Goldberg Machine. Learn more at:

<http://www.rubegoldberg.com/contest>

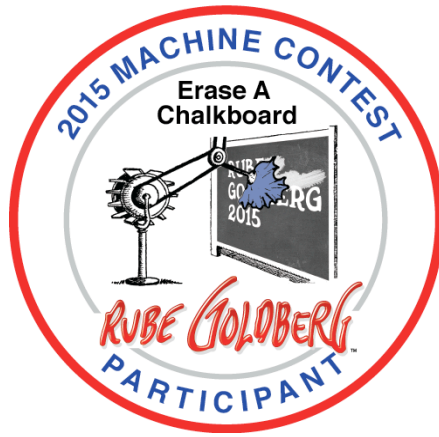
A Rube Goldberg Machine is an overly complex contraption, designed with humor and a narrative, to accomplish a simple task.

The RGMC is STEM and STEAM friendly, and Teams and their machines are judged on a range of criteria from absurd complexity, reliability, team chemistry, creativity, humor and story-telling -- along with the successful achievement of the task at hand.

### ENTRY GUIDELINES

- **Division I, Ages 11 – 14** (Middle School)  
Each team must have a Teacher/Parent Advisor who will be present at the Contest.  
\* NOTE: All team members must be between the ages of 11 and 14 and enrolled as full-time students in order to participate in the Contest.
- **DIVISION II: Ages 14 – 18** (High School)  
Each team must have a Teacher/Parent Advisor who will be present at the Contest.  
\* NOTE: All team members must be between the ages of 14 and 18 and enrolled as full-time students in order to participate in the Contest.
- **DIVISION III: Ages 18+** (College)  
Each team must have a team Captain who will be present at the Contest.  
Each team may have a faculty Advisor, whose attendance at the Contest is not required.  
\* NOTE: All team members must be 18 years of age or older and enrolled as full-time undergraduate or graduate students at an accredited university in order to participate in the Contest.

Learn more at: <http://www.rubegoldberg.com/contest>



## CONTEST HISTORY

Dating back over 60 years, the contest's namesake is the late American Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, humorist and inventor, Reuben Lucius Goldberg, who specialized in drawing whimsical machines with every-day objects that performed a seemingly simple task.

Goldberg's legacy lives on through the contests - as students nationwide build crazy machines that complete the annual task, all in the spirit of Rube's illustrations.

- View the [International Online Contest](#) page for middle school students.
- View the [High School and College Contest schedule](#) for dates and to find a contest near you.

[Download the ALL NEW CONTEST 2015 Rule Book.](#)

[Click here to find out How To Register](#)

Thanks again, and I hope we'll see you and your amazing students on March